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MEDIA RELEASE

PAGE ONE OF TWO

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AVAQMD Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentives Double for Second Year in Row AFV Program Reduces Pollution While Energizing the Region's Economy

Lancaster -The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District's Alternative Fuel Vehicle incentive program has realized tremendous growth in the past two years, with awards more than doubling in 2012 and 2013, and the number of Electric and Natural Gas Vehicles sold climbing from 15 in 2011 to 36 in 2012. In 2013 that number once again more than doubled to 75 vehicles sold.

"There are two main reasons this program has taken off the way it has. The first is that the program itself paves the way for a number of individuals, by making an electric or natural gas vehicle more affordable," said AVAQMD Chair Marvin Crist. "The second reason is our Lancaster and Palmdale dealerships have literally lit a fire under the program, which has helped the District realize exponential growth in the number of Alternative Fuel Vehicles sold in the Antelope Valley."

The current maximum incentive amount is \$4,500 per vehicle purchased within the boundaries of the AVAQMD, and up to \$2,000 if the purchase is made outside of the District. In order to increase program participation within the available budget, thus extending the life of the program, the incentive will be reduced to a maximum of \$2,500 as of April 1, 2014. The AVAQMD continues to offer local residents the opportunity to permanently retire older, higher polluting vehicles that are 20 years old or older, currently registered and operational. Antelope Valley residents can sell their qualifying passenger car, van, and light or medium duty truck for \$1,000. "Since one of the major sources of pollution here in the Antelope Valley is the number of personal vehicles, each gasoline-powered vehicle permanently retired and/or replaced with an alternative fuel vehicle is a step toward cleaner air," added AVAQMD Chair Marvin Crist. "Both of these programs have proven to be a tremendous success and we are looking forward to continuing each of them into the future."

"I am not aware of any other Air Quality District in California that operates an incentive program like this," said AVAQMD Operations Manager Bret Banks. "Potential buyers should realize the revisions to the program are coming soon, and as fantastic as the new \$2,500 incentive will be, shoppers should really consider purchasing while the current incentives are still in place."

PAGE TWO OF TWO

In addition to the Alternative Fuel Vehicle incentive, the AVAQMD has expanded its Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Grant Program to offer equipment replacement to help owners reduce air pollution by reimbursing up to 80% of the cost of replacing older diesel equipment in their off-road fleet. A-G Sod Farms, Valyermo Ranch, Calandri SonRise Farms, Antelope Valley High School, Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, West Coast Baptist, and Desert Christian Schools have already participated in this program, resulting in further emission reductions within the region.

For more information regarding the Alternative Fuel Vehicle and Carl Moyer Programs visit:
<http://www.avaqmd.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=197> , or call the AVAQMD office at (661)723-8070.

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